

IN HONOR OF THE TEACHERS,  
PARENTS, ADMINISTRATORS  
AND STUDENTS OF VALLEY  
VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the parents, students, faculty, and staff whose dedication to excellence has earned Valley View Middle School, in my hometown of Simi Valley, California, recognition as a national Blue Ribbon School.

Valley View Middle School is a shining example of what can happen when parents, teachers, and administrators collaborate on the best approaches for providing a quality education. Each year the school formulates a new motto. This school year it was "Learn from the Past . . . Look to the Future." That motto says a lot about how the school has progressed over the past several years.

The Northridge earthquake hit in 1994. Valley View is six miles from the epicenter. A month later, a student was stabbed to death at the school. From that physical and emotional devastation grew a renewed commitment to make the school safe for the students. It also inspired the Valley View community—parents, students, educators, and staff—to evaluate their situation and develop a vision for the future.

They did it through IDEALS: Independence, Diligence, Exploration, Academics, Leadership, and Social Skills. In their words, IDEALS gave the Valley View community "a common focus that builds unity in our efforts to provide the best possible learning opportunities for our students."

Valley View helps students understand the options available to them. It instills in them a sense that choices have consequences, and good choices lead to a good, productive life. Valley View strives for academic excellence in a safe, secure, and stimulating environment.

Valley View's recognition as a Blue Ribbon School is but one small measure of their success. The more important measure is the students who leave the school with knowledge, confidence, and faith in their futures.

Mr. Speaker, as our nation works in concert to better our education system, it would serve us well to study the successes of our Blue Ribbon Schools. They are the best of the best and a key to our future. Their creativity and response to their communities' needs prove what can be accomplished. I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Valley View Principal Jan Britz, her entire staff, and the parents and students of Valley View for striving for—and reaching—this level of excellence.

### ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a special remembrance during May of Asian/Pacific

American Heritage Month. I would especially like to express appreciation and respect for Asian/Pacific Americans and their invaluable contributions to our country. Asian/Pacific Americans are an integral part of the diversity of this country. Mr. Speaker, the greatness of this country rests upon all its members embracing both the common bond of freedom and democracy, and equally, the fact that nearly all Americans are either immigrants themselves or descendants of immigrants, participating in a country and society of remarkable history and myriad cultural traditions. The Asian American community itself reflects the wonderful diversity of this country. Southeast Asians, South Asians, East Asians, and Pacific Islanders are all groups which have faced different obstacles and overcome different odds to their lives as Americans.

The term Asian/Pacific American encompasses such a wide range of categories that it is doubly ironic that they have faced so many stereotypes, damaging assumptions, and injustices, in this country. Mr. Speaker, our country witnessed the honorable service of those patriotic Japanese American soldiers who fought in World War II, while their family members and friends were forced into internment camps. We should never forget the loyalty of Hmong veterans, Chinese-Americans who gave their lives building railroads across this country, South-Asian immigrants denied equal employment opportunities, and those Asian/Pacific Americans who were the innocent victims of hate crimes.

Despite the struggle that Asian/Pacific Americans have faced in this country, they have been among our nation's finest and greatest contributors, scientifically, economically, artistically, and politically. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely fortunate to work side-by-side with such great Asian/Pacific-Islander contributors as Congressman FALCOMA, ROBERT MATSUI, PATSY MINK, DAVID WU, and also, Mr. UNDERWOOD. They are not the only Asian/Pacific-Islander leaders of note. I am especially privileged to work with such great humanitarians as Bill Lann Lee, the Acting Assistant Attorney General of Civil Rights and Harold Koh the Assistant Secretary of Democracy, Labor, and Human Rights. By appointing more Asian Pacific Americans than any former President has, President Clinton has, I hope, only begun what will become an increasing trend in political appointments.

Mr. Speaker, there is a long list of Asian/Pacific Americans who have contributed intellectually and culturally to this country. Perhaps some of the most inspired and famous of these contributors are Asian/Pacific American women. ABC news correspondent Connie Chung has been a respected media presence for years. Doris Matsui, who is the current Deputy Assistant to the President has long been a prominent public service figure. Architect Maya Lin has given America an unforgettable monument to the Vietnam War. Writers Iris Chang, Jhumpa Lahiri, winner of this year's Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and Janice Mirikitani, the current Poet Laureate of San Francisco have gained wide-spread critical and popular recognition for their work. Two years ago, Kalpana Chawla became the first Indian American astronaut in space. Mr. Speaker, Asian/Pacific American women have truly taken the public spotlight with their accomplishments and courage.

On a national level, we are all familiar with the scientific work of Dr. David Ho, an innova-

tive researcher who has battled to fight the AIDS virus. Throughout the world, Mr. Speaker, we have the privilege of being surrounded by breath-taking architecture, and among the most amazing buildings are the exquisite structures which reflect the visions of I.M. Pei—the magnificent East Wing of the National Gallery of Art here in Washington, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, the entrance to the Louvre in Paris, and many others. Across the United States, people have been moved by the thoughtful essays of Ronald Takaki, the memoir-based fiction of Chang-Rae Lee, and the musical inspiration of Zubin Mehta and Yo-Yo Ma. We are all awed by the strength and grace of athletes such as Michelle Kwan, former 49er Jesse Sapolu, and golfer Tiger Woods.

Mr. Speaker, I especially wanted to highlight three wonderful Asian/Pacific American heroes in my home district of San Mateo/San Francisco. They are Alice Bulos, an activist for Filipino-American issues, Ann Ito, the co-founder of the League of Women Voters, and David Louie a premiere reporter seen on the local Channel 7 News. Mr. Speaker, these local pioneers are incredible contributors to the cultural vitality of the San Francisco Bay Area and an integral part of the active Asian/Pacific American population which is a hallmark of the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, to individually recognize each of the Asian/Pacific Americans who have made outstanding civic and social contributions to this society would be an endless task. However, I believe that this month we should take the time to understand and realize that every Asian/Pacific American in this country has faced varying levels of ignorance and harmful bias in this country. It is our duty as Members of Congress to fight against any intolerance or prejudice in this country and to congratulate the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans which are, in the light of the past and present injustices perpetrated against them, especially triumphant. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the stirring history and the breath-taking diversity that Asian/Pacific Americans have given to this country.

### MUHAMMAD ALI BOXING REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2000*

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1832, the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, by my good colleague and friend Mr. OXLEY from Ohio.

Last year, the Commerce Committee received a letter signed by 19 bipartisan U.S. State Attorneys General asking that this legislation be enacted. The Attorneys General wrote that "this legislation will curb anti-competitive and fraudulent business practices and prevent blatant exploitation of professional boxers."

The International Boxing Digest stated "We support the new [boxing] bill, and urge all honest people in professional boxing to do likewise. Fighters need to be protected, and not